

Amusements.

AMERICAN THEATRE—8-15—Der Voreinspräsident.
ACADEMY—8-15—Country Circus.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8-15—The Lion Tamer.
BIJOU THEATRE—8-15—The City Directory.
CHESTER—8-15—Lecture.
CARLETON—8-15—Nancy.
DALY'S—8-15—Nancy and Company.
EDEN MUSEE—Wax Tablets.
GARDEN THEATRE—8-15—La Cippie.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8-15—The Stowaway.
HARRISMAN THEATRE—8-15—The Last of the Huns.
HARRISMAN THEATRE—8-15—The Junior Partner.
JOHN'S MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8-15—A Trip to Chinatown.
KOSCIUSKO—8-15—Vandeville.
LUXEM THEATRE—8-15—Squire Kate.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8-15—The Prophet.
NEW PARK THEATRE—8-15—A Straight Tip.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8-15—Evangeline.
PROCTOR'S THEATRE—8-15—The Last Paradise.
PALESTER THEATRE—8-15—The Penman.
STAR THEATRE—8-15—For Money.
STANDARD THEATRE—8-15—Miss Hoyt.
THEATRE—8-15—The Stowaway.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8-15—Aunt Redd's Boy.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8-15—Blue Jeans.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1892.

TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.—In a single Siberian town there are 14,000 starving and fever-stricken peasants, for whom the people of the town can do little. The native officers of the Egyptian Army took the oath of allegiance to the new Khedive. Spain will prolong her commercial treaties with France and Germany. Mr. Spurgeon's condition is critical. Congress.—Both branches in session. House: Resolutions calling on the President to give the Chilian answer to the House were referred; the House rules were discussed. Senate: A resolution for an international silver conference was reported. Domestic.—A dispatch was received at Washington from Mr. Egan confirming the report of Chili's offer of settlement; the general sentiment was that the reply was unsatisfactory. Bills appropriating \$500,000 for work on the new Capitol were introduced at Albany; a measure providing for a new board of trustees of the Brooklyn Bridge, to consist of seven members, was introduced in both houses. The Metropolitan Opera House block at Columbus, Ohio, was destroyed by fire. The President gave a reception at the White House to the Army and Navy and Supreme Court. Men were active along the Hudson taking advantage of the cold snap. City and Suburban.—The Democratic State Committee issued a call for the State Convention to meet at Albany on February 22; the Manhattan Club gave a reception to Senator Hill to start his boom for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Judge Manning M. Knapp died on the bench in Jersey City. An oil factory near Elizabeth, N. J., was burned, causing a loss of \$250,000. The high wind did considerable damage to shipping, and the cold was intense. Important testimony for the prosecution was given in the trial of Carlyle W. Harris by Professor Withams. Three or four Methodist Episcopal churches will probably be consolidated; they are St. Paul's, the Forty-third Street, St. Luke's, and perhaps St. John's. Gallant attempt to rescue a drowning woman in the East River. Stocks more active at advancing prices, and in spite of a small reaction in the last hour the closing was not weak, while handsome advances were recorded by nearly all stocks. The Weather.—Forecast for today: Clear; moderating slightly. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 39 degrees; lowest, 9; average 15.

The discussion upon the proposed new rules for the House yesterday was mainly interesting from the frank talk indulged in by ex-Speaker Reed. Mr. Reed is an expert upon this question, and he made out a strong case in favor of the rules of the last Congress as against those now reported. In the course of his speech he referred to the fact that the question of what constitutes a quorum is now before the Supreme Court, and expressed the confident hope that its decision would accord with the view maintained by him when occupying the Speaker's chair.

The new Capitol at Albany is one of the things that we have always with us. Already nearly \$19,000,000 has been spent upon it, and yet it stands with its capacious and unappetizing maw and cries for more. A bill was offered in both houses of the Legislature last night calling for \$800,000 in order to continue work upon the huge pile. Present estimates are that \$22,000,000 will be swallowed up before the structure is completed. If the taxpayers believed that it ever would be finished—if they could detect signs, even far off, of that glad fruition—they would be the more willing to approve legislation for prosecuting the work.

It required courage of no ordinary kind to induce a man to leap into the icy waters of the East River on such a day as yesterday in order to save the life of a fellow-creature. That was what John Carlin, the cook of the steamboat Municipal, did without a moment's thought for himself when he saw a woman on the point of drowning. He made a gallant effort to save her, and though he failed, the same credit is due him as if he had succeeded. It was an act of genuine heroism, such as is all too rare in these prosaic times. We take off our hat to John Carlin, cook of the steamboat Municipal.

The trial of Carlyle W. Harris for killing his young wife is attracting a large degree of attention, and the testimony from day to day is followed with profound interest. Thus far the de-

fendant has been placed in a decidedly unfavorable light. The evidence given yesterday is especially important. Dr. Withams, who made a chemical examination of the contents of the young woman's stomach, testified that he found distinct traces of morphine, but not a suggestion of quinine. The inference from this is obvious. Dr. Withams has not yet been cross-examined, but it is hard to see how the defence can break the force of this startling testimony.

Mr. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, yesterday explained the evil of being "too previous." The resolution which he offered was badly timed, and the inferences which he intended to have drawn from it were offensive. It intimated, in fact, that in sending the Chilian correspondence to Congress the President had kept back something of importance. Mr. Breckinridge, however, did not find that support in his own party which he doubtless expected. Messrs. Blount, Herbert and McCree deprecated haste, and emphasized the gravity of the situation and the necessity of careful consideration. The resolution was disposed of by referring it to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Mr. Breckinridge sadly mistook the temper of the House.

REPARATION AND ARBITRATION.

The United States Government has demanded reparation and redress for the Valparaiso outrage and the Matia circular. Whether the Chilian Government is prepared to meet this demand will be known when the answer has been received and duly considered by the Administration and Congress. There are pacific methods of redress recognized by international usage. Prominent among these are diplomatic apologies, the saluting of the flag, and pecuniary indemnity for injuries which have been suffered. The saluting of the flag to which an affront has been offered is a form of apology ordinarily regarded as satisfactory. It may be dispensed with, as was done in the Trent affair, but it is often adopted as a practical and unmistakable method of rendering an international apology without diplomatic quibbling. When the French Consul was affronted in San Francisco in 1854 the American Government made reparation by saluting his flag. In the settlement of the Virginia case the American Government asked for a salute from a Spanish vessel-of-war, but the formality was subsequently dispensed with when it was discovered that the papers of the Virginia were based on an ill-founded claim of ownership by United States citizens. The seizure of the privateer Florida offers a striking parallel to the Chilian case, since the United States in that affair was dealing with one of the South American States.

The privateer was captured by an American cruiser in the port of Bahia, Brazil. The act involved an infringement upon the jurisdiction of a friendly nation over its own territorial waters. The conduct both of the consul who advised the seizure and of the naval commander who was responsible for it was disavowed by Secretary Seward. The consul was dismissed, and the commander was tried by court-martial, and full reparation for the offence was promised. If the Florida had not fomedered it would have been taken back to Bahia and surrendered to the port officials; but in order to express in a formal way the apologies of the United States Government an American man-of-war was dispatched to Brazil to salute the flag of the nation whose sovereignty had been invaded. The salute was fired in Bahia from the anchorage where the Florida was seized.

The withdrawal of the Matia circular with suitable and adequate expressions of regret will dispose of one of the demands contained in the ultimatum of the United States. A salute to the American flag in Valparaiso harbor would be an ample apology for the affront offered to the Nation in the wanton and cruel attack made upon the Baltimore's men. That act of reparation would not be open to charges of diplomatic quibbling and evasion. It would answer all the requirements of the case so far as the responsibility of the Chilian Government was concerned. As the Brazilian flag was saluted in Bahia, so the American flag ought to be accorded the same honors in Valparaiso, where the outrage occurred. As reparation was made to Brazil by an American man-of-war, so also it would be proper for a ship of the Chilian Navy to acknowledge publicly by a salute of honor the indignity and outrage from which the sailors of the Baltimore suffered.

The question of indemnity for the deaths and injuries caused by the Valparaiso mob alone remains to be considered. Reparation has been demanded in the ultimatum for these deaths and injuries, but no specific amount has been named. This is a matter which can properly be submitted for arbitration. If the Matia circular be repudiated with ample expressions of regret for its having been issued, and if the Chilian Government agrees to assume full responsibility for the Valparaiso outrage by saluting the flag, the question of determining the damages to be assessed for the assault upon the Baltimore's men can be referred to international arbitration. This would involve a pacific settlement of the existing complications in every respect satisfactory to the American people.

COAST DEFENCES.

Whatever the issue of the controversy with Chili may be the need of new means of protection for our coasts is likely to be impressed upon Congress and the country. In case of war the consequences of a possible bombardment of New-York will loom large before the imagination of our people, even though there be little actual danger of its realization. The inhabitants of other important maritime cities will experience a similar awakening, and in greater or less degree those who live inland will appreciate the intimate connection between their own welfare and the security of our seaports. If a peaceable settlement is reached it is, nevertheless, not unreasonable to believe that the present sense of disability will last, and that it will be sufficiently strong and general to insure the rapid preparation of new defences.

Considerable progress has been made during the six years since Mr. Tilden sent to Mr. Carlisle, on the eve of his election to the Speakership, a notable letter reminding him and the country of the helplessness of our ports and urging liberal appropriations for their protection. If the professional theory that a strong navy is the most efficient element of defence be accepted, then it will be acknowledged with gratitude that remarkable progress has been made, of which the whole country knows and is proud, and that the work is going forward steadily and prosperously. But ships, though primarily essential, are not enough. They must be reinforced at New-York and at other ports by fortifications and by facilities for the application of all approved devices to prevent or intercept the approach of enemies by sea. The condition of New-York is much less hazardous than it was a few years ago, and in the opinion of an expert on fortifications who was quoted in yesterday's TRIBUNE, its safety could be made reasonably secure within a few weeks. But this great and wealthy city ought not to be left dependent upon the protection of improvised and temporary expedients. It ought without delay to be made permanently secure against attack. Its natural advantages of situation are almost unequalled, and it can be put beyond the pos-

sibility of menace from any quarter by the expenditure of a sum comparatively trivial.

If the present controversy is aggravated into a conflict the great ports of the country are certain to be safeguarded, though possibly not until one or more of them have paid a heavy penalty for past folly. But if, as now seems probable, war is averted, the duty of making the future safe will still remain; and we hope that public sentiment will not permit it to be neglected longer.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

Hill has his way. The Democratic Convention of this State is to meet next month to select delegates to the National Democratic Convention. So the Democratic Committee decided at its yesterday's meeting. Hill, shirking his duty as United States Senator, came over from Washington and directed the committee in person. With the grave Chilian question confronting the country and formally before Congress because of the President's Message, his absence from his seat in the Senate yesterday and Monday conclusively attested his want of patriotism and his absolute untrustworthiness as a public servant. But then Hill's entire public career proves that to him personal ambition for place and power is everything and the public well nothing.

In directing the State Committee to call the convention in February Hill made another signal display of his selfishness. The convening of such a body in midwinter is against all the precedents of the Democracy of New-York, and there has been no demand either on the part of the leaders or the rank and file that they should be set aside this year. If the convenience of those who are to be sent as delegates to the convention or to the preliminary gatherings had been consulted, obviously a date would have been selected later in the season, when the weather is less inclement and transit is easier over the roads of the interior. But such considerations did not move the self-absorbed Hill. It suited him to have the convention called in February, and he did not care whether it was agreeable to the rest of the party or not. He is the dictator of the Democracy of the Empire State, and doubtless reasons that it is the function of a dictator to dictate. "The Albany Argus," "The Brooklyn Eagle," "The Buffalo Courier" and other leading Democratic journals protested against a midwinter convention. As for "The World," it wrestled with him as earnestly as Jacob wrestled with the angel, with the same object in view. But all to no purpose. They might as well have dived their remarks to the east wind—or say, to the late Mr. Tweed. Hill believed that the fortunes of his boom for the Presidential nomination would be promoted by a midwinter convention. That settled it. That was the determining consideration with him.

It remains to be seen what the friends of Grover Cleveland are going to do about it. Will they allow the election of delegates all over the State to go by default in favor of Hill or will they make a contest? Apparently they have decided to pursue a do-nothing policy—but what is the sense of such a policy unless Mr. Cleveland has decided not to run again? Mr. Harrity, who is recognized as the leader of the Cleveland Democracy of Pennsylvania, is reported as asserting that the ex-President is a candidate "in the same sense that he has always been a candidate. That he is pulling wires or scheming to get the nomination is not true. But he is today, in my opinion, precisely in the same position he was before the convention of 1884." This will do nicely as an explanation of Cleveland's position. But how about Cleveland's friends? Perhaps Colonel Lamont or ex-Secretary Fairchild will take the floor.

PRICES OF SILVER.

There is to be another discussion of the silver question, and another effort to excite the Western mind with the idea that legislation thus far has not done justice to silver. As an essential preliminary to intelligent discussion of the subject it is important to know just what prices of silver have been at different times, and how far their fluctuations appear to have been caused by political action. As to the more ancient history few words will suffice. For seventy years until 1870 the average price of fine silver bars at London was 60.37 pence per ounce, and in 1871, 60.05 pence, and in 1872, 60.31 pence. In 1873 it declined a shade to 59.25; in 1874 it fell another penny to 58.31; in 1875 about 11.2 pence more to 59.87, and in 1876 about 31.2 pence to 53.18. A recovery began in the following year, and the average for 1877 was 54.65 pence. In 1878 the first Silver Coinage Act was passed, and the following table shows the average price of bar silver each month from January, 1878, to this time, the prices prior to 1886 being taken from tables previously published, and the later figures being compiled from the daily quotations:

Year.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
January	53.95	49.75	52.40	51.25	58.97	50.25	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87	50.87
February	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
March	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
April	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
May	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
June	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
July	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
August	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
September	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
October	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
November	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
December	54.20	49.75	52.21	52.25	51.81	50.54	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13	51.13
Average	52.56	51.59	52.25	51.76	51.82	50.97	50.68								

It was early in 1878 that Congress enacted the law requiring purchase and coinage of not less than \$2,000,000 worth of silver bullion each month. The price fell sharply during the year following, and never recovered to nearly the same point again until September, 1890. According to Mint reports, it happened that the production of silver rose in 1878 quite sharply from less than forty to over forty-five millions. But according to Mr. Valentine's records the increase to nearly forty-six millions was in 1877, and a decline followed in 1878 to thirty-seven millions. According to both records the production had risen somewhat further by 1884, to nearly forty-nine millions, according to Mint reports, and the fact appears that the price averaged higher for the whole years 1883 and 1884 than for the latter part of 1878 or the first part of 1879. Undoubtedly the serious depression of trade which made that the lowest point ever touched for prices of commodities was the chief cause of the decline in 1878, together with the emptying upon the markets of silver which had been accumulated in expectation that the new act would advance the price.

After that period, it will be seen, the price of silver was on the whole pretty steady for six years. The record of yield shows that it was not then so low in price as to prevent the opening of additional mines, though about a sixth lower than the average for seventy-two years prior to European demoralization in 1873. But in 1885, without warning, a new and serious fall in silver began, which followed closely upon the advent of the first Democratic Administration for many years. Probably the announcement of its hostile policy with respect to silver had some influence, for the yield was scarcely greater in 1885 than in 1884 or 1883, and not

as great as in 1882, according to Mr. Valentine's record of actual shipments.

Starting from a monthly average of over 50 pence per ounce when President Cleveland was elected, silver fell about 2 pence in 1885, about 3 pence in 1886, and 2 1/2 pence in 1887 and 1888. The monthly average fell to 42.01 pence per ounce, the lowest ever yet reached, in August, 1888, while the Presidential campaign was in progress, but rose gradually with the increasing prospect of a Republican Administration, and after the election was 42.51 pence in December. During the year 1889 the markets were obviously waiting, toward the close hope appearing of favorable legislation, as the price advanced to 44 in December.

During the early months of 1890, with a new silver law pending, the price gradually rose, averaging 47 pence in May, 49 pence after the vote of the House in June, and 50 pence upon the final passage of the bill. Then there was some realizing with severely any depression, but by the 18th of August the price reached 55 pence per ounce, a price which does not appear to have been touched at any other time since the passage of the Act of 1878. The average for that month and September was over 50 pence, and for October almost 50 pence. In November, as soon as the overwhelming Democratic victory of 1890 and the election of a "Free-Silver House" threatened a change of administration and of National policy, selling and depression began, which have continued ever since. Yet the average for the year 1890 was the highest since the year of Mr. Cleveland's inauguration.

The market price in 1891 did not indicate that Democratic legislation was expected to advance the price of silver. Indeed, in November last the price was back again to the lowest point since the October following President Harrison's inauguration. It does not appear from the market price that expectation of free coinage has helped silver at any time. It does appear, contrary to the opinions of many, that the larger purchases by the Government under the Act of 1890 have to some extent advanced the price, in spite of the depressing influence of a reckless speculation which ended in disaster.

TODAY'S HEARING OF THE FAIR BILL.

The hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance at Albany this afternoon will practically determine whether an adequate appropriation shall be made by this State for its representation in the Columbian Exposition, or whether the sum set apart for this purpose shall remain as it now stands in the World's Fair bill, \$300,000. We have yet to hear of any one who has given thoughtful consideration to the subject who still believes that this amount will be sufficient. The opinions to that effect have been expressed either by those who were indifferent to the Fair and careless whether New-York makes a good or a bad showing at Chicago, or else by those who have vaguely guessed at the probable expenditure and think that \$300,